



Egremont News

Issue 120

April, 2022

Rules & Regulations of this Newsletter:

The purpose of this newsletter is to keep residents informed of what is going on in our community. It is printed on a quarterly basis by the Selectmen's Office Staff. Articles submitted by Town Boards are not edited by the Select Board or Office Administrator. Outside organizations are allowed to submit articles of no longer than one column length. These articles are to be factual and will not be printed if they contain any political format, forum, or communication. We welcome reader input and hope you enjoy reading the Newsletter. **If you wish to receive this newsletter via email please contact town hall -**

tegrement@egremont-ma.gov or 413-528-0182.

Selectmen:

Happy Spring Egremont!

Congratulate yourselves, we've made it though a very tricky winter with perhaps too many challenges to count but we're here, with sunshine, more sunlight and the promise of renewed growth everywhere.

Your Selectboard has been active this winter, as usual, planning, pursuing and witnessing positive changes in our great Town to enhance our lives.

Our Annual Town Meeting this year is being held May 3, 2022, at 6:00PM at the Catamount Base Lodge, as it was last year. This year's warrant will be available to the public on April 18, 2022.

The Town Election will be held the following Tuesday, May 10, 2022, at Town Hall. Polls open at 12-5 PM.

The new Generator has been installed at Town Hall, insuring smooth and non-stop efficiency in all departments.

With the mask directive lifted for indoor and outdoor activities, it's important that we all stay vigilant and keep a mask in your car or pocket for situations in which you choose to wear them.

The renovations and restoration at the Egremont Free Library aka Academy have started and the Library is functioning well at its new location at Town Hall, second floor, with drop off boxes at the back entrance. During the renovation some very interesting items were found in the crawl space under the building; old bottles, an old shoe and a mummified cat.

As a reminder, the Mass DOT Road project for Route 23/41 will begin in June of this year. While the construction will be somewhat daunting, the end result is very exciting: Sidewalks on both sides of the road from Creamery to Undermountain Road. Bike paths, more crosswalks, updated and Egremont appropriate lighting as well as other traffic calming measures to insure a safer, walkable and attractive South Village.

French Park Dog Park has been planning changes for safer, friendlier outings thanks to a new committee of loyal and smart dog users. There will be mandatory registration, free of charge, to all who use the park. The signage will be minimized and unambiguous. And everyone can scan the available icon to donate, learn the rules of conduct and make comments for improvement.

The BoS authorized a Request for Proposals by the Housing Committee for companies to present plans for Egremont appropriate Affordable Housing on the Town owned site behind Town Hall. Affordable Housing is a pressing need in our community and region wide.

Egremont was again awarded a Community Block Grant along with Great Barrington and Monterey. Again, this year, we will be the administrator of this grant. We were also awarded a planning grant from the Municipal Vulnerability Program (MVP), a state grant offering funds to towns for mitigation of climate change. The MVP Committee is now in the process of applying for an action plan to put those changes in place.

We are still on track to receive our Transportation Van this spring. As most of you know, supply chain issues have disrupted delivery of everything. This is no exception.

The Selectboard wishes you a wonderful spring,

and a clear sailing return to the outdoors and gatherings with friends and loved ones.

Take good care. We are Egremont Strong.

Meet Egremont's Employee:



Tim Hughes grew up in Egremont. He lives with his wife Jill and their daughter. Tim has been with the Highway Department since July 2020.

ECO-TIP

Still throwing away unwanted catalogs? Stop them from coming, and save trees, by calling the 800 number on the address page and asking to be removed from their mailing list.

Town Clerk:

There are three elections scheduled for 2022:

Local Election: Tuesday, May 10th 10:00 am – 7:00 pm.

Deadline to Register to Vote: Wednesday, April 20th 5:00 pm.

On Ballot: Assessor 3-year, Assessor 1-year, Associate Planning Board 2-year, Cemetery Commission 3-year, Constable 3-year, Library Trustee 3-year, Moderator 1-year, Planning Board 5-year, Planning Board 2-year, Selectman 3-year, Town Clerk 1-year, Tree Warden 1-year

Ballot Question #1 Vote to change Tree Warden from elected to appointed by the Board of Selectmen

Ballot Question #2: Vote to change Town Clerk from elected to appointed by the Board of Selectmen.

Ballot Question #3: Vote to change

Moderator term from 1-year to 3-year

State Primary: Tuesday, September 6th 7:00 am – 8:00 pm

Deadline to Register to Vote: Wednesday, August 17th 5:00 pm

On Ballot: Representative in Congress, Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, State Auditor, Governor's Council, State Senator, State Representative, District Attorney, Sheriff, County Commissioner (only in certain counties).

State Election: Tuesday, November 6th 7:00 am – 8:00 pm

Deadline to Register to Vote: Wednesday, October 19th 5:00 pm

On Ballot: Representative in Congress, Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, State Auditor, Governor's Council, State Senator, State Representative, District Attorney, Sheriff, County Commissioner (only in certain counties), statewide ballot questions (tbd).

Elections take place at Egremont Town Hall. .

If you have already registered to vote in Egremont, stay an active voter and/or have submitted your yearly Town Census form you do not need to reregister. To register for the first time as an Egremont voter, you can either register online (<https://www.sec.state.ma.us/OVR/>) or submit a signed voter registration application to the Town Clerk.

ECO-TIP

Reduce your reliance on petroleum-based synthetic fabrics (e.g., nylon, polyester, acrylic). They are as bad for the environment as plastic bags.

Board of Health:

The worldwide pandemic caused by the COVID-19 virus is now in its 26th month. During this difficult time we've witnessed sickness, death, shut downs, emergency orders, isolation, scarcity of supplies, schooling via the web, vaccine development and roll-out, variants Delta and Omicron, infection surges, home testing, mask mandates, and the development of anti-viral treatments. COVID positivity rates are currently at low

levels not seen since July 2021. The CDC and the State Department of Public Health will continue to track infection data and may adjust current safety guidelines if rates climb again.

Based on current conditions, the CDC recommends that individuals with higher risks of developing serious illness from COVID should continue to wear a mask when indoors in public places. The Egremont Board of Health has secured highly rated KN95 masks and has them available to our residents in a basket outside town hall. They will also be available at the upcoming Annual Town Meeting as a protective measure.

The development of the COVID vaccine for adults and children over the age of five and therapeutic treatments including monoclonal antibodies and antiviral pills have resulted in a steep decline in COVID related deaths, hospitalizations and serious illness. **Please take note that** treatment is not a substitute for prevention. It is important to get vaccinated and get your booster when eligible.

The Egremont Board of Health will continue to monitor advisories from the CDC and State and will keep you informed of changes and updates.

Council on Aging:

Let's hope our long winter is over and we can start to return to more normal times! COA is looking forward to resuming our luncheons and other events as we get into warmer weather. Our tentative spring schedule is:

Wednesday, April 6 – Grab 'N Go at The Barn

Wednesday, May 4 – A celebration of being able to meet in person – Walk Around the Park and lunch at French Park (depending on the weather)

Wednesday, June 8 – French Park – Liz Keen from Indian Line Farm and lunch. Watch for more details.

You can find details and changes on Egremont Posts starting a week before events.

Spring is officially here and we hope that means no more snow. This past season we gave out over 40 buckets in our Sand for Seniors program. **Now that we don't have to worry about snow and**

ice we ask that you please return your bucket to the Town Hall. You can leave outside the door by the picnic table. If you would like us to pick up your bucket just give us a call – 528-0182 x 16.

Egremonters are great recyclers and when you return your bucket it means we can use it again next year!!

Coffee Hours - Older adult Coffee Hours are back! For now we meet the last Thursday of each month at Sara's Place at the Egremont Village Inn. If there is enough interest we will hold additional Coffee Hours. Meet your neighbors old and new and enjoy getting to know them as well as having great conversations! The next Coffee Hour will be Thursday, March 31 from 9:00 – 10:00.

Falls - No one anticipates or likes to fall and as people age falls can be more serious. However, there are some steps you can take pro-actively to avoid falling in the first place: keep yourself strong and in good physical shape, wear "safe" footwear (rubber soled shoes, laces always tied, etc.), minimize "trip" hazards in your home, garage and yard, keep a walking stick close by, etc., some medications have side affects that might make you dizzy or unstable so be sure to check.

What if you do find yourself falling? It is suggested that you try to control the fall and the direction of the fall as best you can. For example – try to stay bent rather than rigidly falling flat. To protect your head, turn your face to the side and tuck your chin with the goal of limiting the risk that your head will smack down. You can also try to aim for an "open area" so as to minimize contact with sharp objects. Swinging your arms as you fall can also help you gain control.

Falls are always a surprise so it's difficult to be prepared but whatever you can do to minimize the consequences is valuable!

Exercise Class – Sound & Movement with Pamela Knowles is held each Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. from your home via Zoom. Working with the body, breath and voice this exercise class incorporates stretching, alignment, muscle toning, tension release as well as vocalizing and improvising to cultivate inherent creative movement potential. Everyone is welcome – no experience necessary. Suggested donation of \$5.00 per class. For more information contact pamelaknowles@hotmail.com

Looking For A Ride -If you need a ride for a medical appointment or other essential service our Transportation Department is here to assist you. Appointments should be booked 24 hours in advance. To arrange a ride call Melanie Torrico at the transportation Department at 528-0182 x 25 between 9:00 – 3:00. You can also email at transpdepart@egremont-ma.gov.

At the present time it does not appear that the Taxi Grant funding is going to be renewed. We will keep you posted.

Walking - longer days with warm sunshine mean we can spend more time outside. Just in time for long walks we have received a new shipment of “Be Seen, Be Safe” vests. As you walk on our scenic roads please remember to practice safe walking: always walk facing traffic, wear bright visible clothing (vests), walk single file, remember that unless you are in a crosswalk cars have the right away. When a vehicle approaches you be sure you move to the side of the road.

Your COA is here to assist you - Here are some ways we can do that:

- *provide you with a list of volunteer shoppers and volunteers to take your trash to the Transfer Station

- *provide you with information and assistance on heating assistance programs – the deadline for applications has been extended to May 13, 2022.

- *provide you with a list Home Assistance aides and Home Health Caregivers

- *provide information on Transportation Programs

- *get you information (and delivery) of medical equipment (wheelchairs, crutches, canes, commodes, etc.) that you can borrow from the Town. And if you have medical equipment that you no longer need and would like to donate just give us a call and we can arrange to pick it up or you can drop at the Town Hall.

- *anything else - just give us a call and we will get the information for you.

Enjoy the sunshine and spring days! We love to hear from you. You can call us at 528-0182 x 16



Special Birthday wishes to Rachel Shaw who this year is celebrating her 99th birthday! Rachel is a long time resident of Egremont and was instrumental in establishing the Egremont Council on Aging. She served for many years on the COA and established exercise and outreach programs that are still in place today. Photo credit Brian Shaw.



Bobbie Nussbaum turned 87 on March 3rd. Bobbie has received this incredible State Citation from State Rep Smitty Pignatelli for her years volunteering in our Community. Photo credit Louann Harvey

ECO-TIP

Light bulbs: Keep mercury-containing light bulbs (all kinds of fluorescents) out of both the trash and recycling. Take them to the attendant at the Transfer Station. Old-fashioned (incandescent) and LED bulbs can go into regular trash. NO light bulbs should ever go into the recycling bin.

Emergency Management

If any power outages occur in our area, it is imperative that they be reported via the National Grid Customer Service or Outage Reporting phone numbers. Please report any outages or downed wires via

these phone numbers. Every outage phone call that National Grid receives is logged into their outage tracking system and better enables them to pinpoint the location of the issue. The sooner that they can identify the location of the issue, the better they can respond.

Outage Reporting Phone Numbers:

Customer Service: **1-800-322-3223** (can also be used for any other general questions)

Outage Reporting: **1-800-465-1212** (automated line for reporting power outages or downed wires)

Also, please call the Egremont Police Department so they are aware of possible downed power lines, etc. They may be reached at 413-528-2160.

Egremont's Emergency Management Team encourages all residents to be prepared for weather events that affect us here in the Berkshires - from winter snows to severe thunderstorms. The information and links provided on the Town of Egremont website preparedness page will help you better prepare yourself and your family for these events.

Egremont is able to make announcements to townspeople by way of telephone and email. There are several messages that may be sent to you. Street closures, water issues, meetings and other general informational topics may utilize the system. In an emergency, the system is set up to call all of the numbers you have listed with Egremont, along with any email addresses you have registered in the system. It is also able to send text messages.

Egremont's telephone alert system works by detecting a voice when you answer the phone. After you pick up the phone and say hello, there may be a second or two of 'dead air'. The system will wait after you answer in order to determine if there is an answering machine on the line. The message will start after that.

If you wish, the system can send an email or text message to you. It can also call your cell phone or VOIP type telephone (through your television or computer if you have that service).

The important thing to know is that you must register those means of contact with the Town of

Egremont; the system only has access to regular listed land line telephone numbers; it cannot detect unlisted numbers. It also cannot get VOIP or cell phone numbers, nor can it determine email addresses. Those must be manually entered into the system.

If you would like to change or add your information into the system, please email or call us with the pertinent contact numbers and email addresses.

If you have any questions about the alert system, please contact us by email or telephone and we will be happy to answer them.

Email: wbrinker@egremont-ma.gov Phone: 413 528-0182 ext 17

ECO-TIP

Carry a container from home for restaurant leftovers. Many servers will allow you to transfer your leftovers to your own container.

Fire Department:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Call #</i>
<i>Location</i>		<i>Call type</i>
1/14/22	10:09 PM	1
Shun Toll Rd.		Alarm/False
1/15/22	12:37 PM	2
Shun Toll Rd.		Alarm/False
1/16/22	11:28 AM	3
Main St.		Alarm/False
1/18/22	5:18 PM	4
Rt. 22 Hillsdale NY		Mutual Aid
1/24/22	1:17 PM	5
Town House Hill Rd.		Medical
1/27/22	3:25 PM	6
Rt.23 at NY State Line		MVA/PI
1/29/22	6:46 PM	7
Lakeside Dr.		Medical
2/2/22	2:31 PM	8
Baldwin Hill E/W		Alarm/False
2/3/22	9:04 AM	9
Undermountain Rd.		Wires Down
2/3/22	11:21 PM	10
Blunt Rd.		Medical
2/4/22	6:01 AM	11
Hillsdale Rd.		Wires Down
2/4/22	8:02 AM	12

Undermountain Rd.		Wires Down
2/4/22	11:35 AM	13
Main St.		Wires Down
2/5/22	10:18 PM	14
Nicholson Rd		Alarm/False
2/7/22	3:07 PM	15
Creamery Rd.		Wires Down
2/7/22	5:01 PM	16
Hillsdale Rd.		MVA
2/9/22	9:22 AM	17
Prospect Lake Rd.		Medical
2/11/22	6:22 PM	18
Nicholson Rd.		Alarm/False
2/19/22	3:40 PM	19
Nicholson Rd.		Alarm/False
2/23/22	9:51 AM	20
East St Mt. Washington		Alarm/False
2/25/22	5:20 PM	21
Pine Crest Hill Cross		Medical
2/25/22	11:28	22
Boice Rd.		Outside Fire
3/3/22	6:35 PM	23
Town House Hill Rd.		Alarm/False
3/6/22	8:52 PM	24
Boice Rd		Alarm/False
3/6/22	11:40 PM	25
Jug End Rd.		Medical
3/7/22	1:35 PM	26
Hillsdale Rd.		MVA
3/8/22	9:08 PM	27
Boice Rd.		Alarm/False
3/8/22	11:17 PM	28
Boice Rd.		Alarm /False
3/11/22	7:42 PM	29
Taconic Ln.		Medical
3/13/22	3:11 PM	30
Nicholson Rd.		Alarm/False
3/16/2022	2:05 PM	31
Main St.		Alarm/False
3/23/2022	9:09 AM	32
West ST MT Washington		Medical
3/23/2022	12:06 PM	33
Main St.		Alarm/False
3/24/2022	7:44 AM	34
Lime Rock Rd.		Mutual/Aid Salisbury CT

Green Committee:

Stay Tuned for Green Walks!!! Starting in April, members of the Green Committee will invite Egremonters to join us on walks. Our idea is to walk and talk about our environmental concerns, local observations, and personal actions in response to the climate crisis. The walks will be easy and the conversations will be low key and judgement free. We hope you will join us.

We are looking forward to welcoming a new fabrics-collecting bin at the Transfer Station. CMRK will take all fabrics, not just clothes, and even pay the town for them. You'll notice the new bins, probably in April.

Finally, the news you've been waiting for: The Green Committee will again hold our town-wide, road-side-trash cleanup, on April 23. Committee members will be back on the lawn in front of Town Hall to weigh and sort the road-side trash you collect. Be sure to sign up for your stretch of road when the invitation comes on EgremontPost. And we'll invite all volunteers to our pizza supper that night!

ECO-TIP

Look for seedlings in coir pots. These are much better than peat pots because coir (from coconut shells) is sustainable. We need to keep peat in peat bogs, where they sequester CO₂.

School News for Egremont:

Back to a New Normal

The number of COVID cases spiked in January with 89 students and 15 staff cases reported. In February numbers dropped to sixteen students and eight staff, and by mid- March only nine students and two tested positive for COVID. With these encouraging numbers the school committee had the enjoyable task of rolling back a number of restrictions that they instituted to protect the school community over the past two years. The process began at a well-publicized policy subcommittee meeting on February 28. During the public comment period, a dozen parents voiced their support for the lifting of the mask mandate. The policy subcommittee unanimously voted to recommend to the full committee to lift the mask mandate. At the March 3 full School Committee meeting by unanimous vote, the mask mandate was suspended

starting on March 7. There was much discussion about how to show support for those staff and students who choose to continue wearing masks. At the March 10 meeting the committee voted to lift the suspension of field trips and invited teachers to submit applications for approval opening the door to consideration of the traditional senior field trip. Finally, the committee approved the return of graduation to the Tanglewood campus on June 4 pending contract negotiations. Certain measures are still in place to prevent the spread of the virus. Optional weekly pooled testing is continuing for those families who opted into the program. At last count there were 52 pools of ten students and staff whose COVID swabs are combined into one test batch. In the first two weeks in March only one pool has shown a positive test. Families can also receive free test kits on Fridays so that they can test their children on Sunday. This method caught three students and one staff over a two-week period in late February. Participation in after school programs will continue require students to either be vaccinated or participate in the pooled testing. The state is providing testing free through April. For those interested, case counts are reported weekly on the SBRSD website.

<https://www.sbrsd.org/article/616022>

New School Committee Member Appointed

Egremont's Jim DiPisa is no longer the newest member of the Southern Berkshire Regional School committee. On March 8 the New Marlborough Board of Selectmen appointed Nanci Worthington as the town's interim member until the next general election in November 2022. At the interview Ms.

Worthington spoke of her years connected to the district while both of her children, Faren and Tanner, attended the schools. She said she is retiring from fourteen years as Adjunct Professor at Post University in Waterbury, CT where she has worked in the Equine Program. This gave her experience in curriculum development, educational governance and management, as well as teaching. In addition, she has a Master's degree in Interdisciplinary Arts and Ecology. She specializes in using art as tool for citizen science and teaches

workshops on exploring nature through creating journals. She is also a licensed massage therapist.

Budget Passed by School Committee

At the Public Hearing on the FY 23 Budget the it was clear that the superintendent, the administrative team, and the finance subcommittee had worked hard to offer a budget with reasonable increases. On March 10 the school committee enthusiastically approved the FY23 budget by unanimous vote. Superintendent Regulbuto described this year's significant budgetary challenges in trying to keep assessments to the towns as low as possible. The District is facing steep inflation of costs in supplies, materials, and services. Of particular note are: the transportation where the bid came in at increase of over 30% and the state transportation reimbursement is down 5.50% (42.75% increase in total transportation costs), a health insurance increase of 8%, and energy costs increases of 30%. Added to this are the increases being requested by the Southern Berkshire Regional Education Association SBREA during contract negotiations for teachers and staff.

FY23 Budget

Operating Expenditure Budget	\$15,713,650
Transportation Expenditure Budget	\$2,072,240
Capital Expenditure Budget	\$343,500
Capital Budget Bond Repayment	\$344,750
Total Expenditure Budget	\$18,474,140

This budget is a 3.82% increase over last year.

To reduce the tax burden \$700,000 from the Excess and Deficiency Fund is being applied so the increase in total assessments is 3.7%. Each town's assessment is calculated by a complex formula and is partially based on the number of students enrolled from each town which on October 1 of the current school year. Egremont was up 5 students compared to last year which brought its percent share up by 1.16% and its assessment is up by 0.87%. On the warrant at town meeting there will be a motion to raise and appropriate \$1,85,452 for Southern Berkshire Regional School District which is an increase of \$175,558 over last year. The district will be reviewing the second round of bids for transportation on March 21 and the final cost of the new contract with the SBREA is yet to be negotiated. This means that there is a potential that another number may be offered at the town meeting.

More information at

<https://www.sbrsd.org/browse/259064>

South Egremont School:

Some of the many special things happening at our school house!



We recently celebrated our 100th day with lots of fun activities and counting. Children brought in collections of 100 special things: candy, pretzels, pine cones, peace cranes, crayons, etc. We agreed that grouping things is an easier way to make sense of 100 than to count one by one...



We are lucky to have Ms. Susan Happ volunteer to teach a class about social emotional learning. Children learn how to communicate about their feelings and they also learn strategies for peaceful and safe ways to process big emotions!



We have Amber West, a parent in our class, teaching Chinese once a week. Children are learning songs, greetings and numbers as well as about cultural stories and celebrations! Here a tiny dragon face is taking shape in honor of Lunar New Year!



As spring approaches, we are learning about celebrations around the world to welcome the new! Holi is a festival of color and fresh beginnings.



Outside, the children made a beautiful Holi painting on snow.



We decorated aprons and chefs caps for a special field trip to Roberto's in Sheffield. We are excited to learn about making (and eating) pizzas!

Photos credit Sarah Cooke

ECO-TIP

Single-serve coffee pods aren't recyclable. Buy a reusable pod and fill it with your favorite coffee or loose tea. Then compost the used tea or coffee grounds.

Water Department:

The Egremont Water Commissioners want to reassure our customers that the Egremont Water Department is continuously monitored daily, along with bi-monthly, monthly, quarterly and annual independent lab testing for contaminants. The Egremont Water Department source is the Karner Brook watershed which is located off Mount Washington Road.

Annual spring flushing will take place over the next two weeks. During the flushing you may experience a discoloration of the water in your home or business. We recommend running the tap for a few minutes, preferably from the tub spout, and it will clear up. The water is safe to drink.

Please let the Water Department know if you are going to be filling your pool! The recorder at the water plant shows an increase but we cannot tell if it is a leak or pool use or irrigation. A quick call will help us with our reporting to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. Thank you!

If you have any questions about the flushing program, or the water department in general, please contact the Egremont Water Department at 413-528-0182 extension 17.

Alford-Egremont Cultural Council:

We are so pleased to introduce the members of the Alford-Egremont Cultural Council, an impressive group who collectively bring years of experience in a broad range of arts and cultural activities.

Please welcome:

James Warwick, Co-Chair

James Warwick works in theatre, television and film as an actor and director. He joins Shakespeare & Company this summer for his fifth season and opens the Great Barrington Public Theatre season directing Alison Larkin's solo show.

**Ellen Maggio, Co-Chair**

Ellen Maggio and her husband Peter have lived in South Egremont, MA since 1993 and have raised three daughters who all attended the Southern Berkshire Regional School District. She has served the community in many capacities, including as a member of the School Committee, a member of the Board of Health, a board member and President of the Board of Trustees for the Berkshire Children's Chorus, a board member for the Eagle Fund and as costume designer for twelve shows at Southern Berkshire Regional School District. Ellen is happy to serve on the Alford/Egremont Cultural Council.

**Phyllis Slocum, Secretary**

For the past 20 years Phyllis has worked in arts education at the Barnes Foundation in Philadelphia and at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. As a new resident in Alford, she is looking forward to meeting and working with the many talented artists in the Egremont and Alford communities.

**Karen Climo, Treasurer**

Karen Climo is a RE Broker with William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty in Great Barrington. She has served on the Egremont Alford Local Cultural Council for many years as well as Charley's Fund, the CATA Gala Committee, the Southern Berkshire Chamber of Commerce, Construct and the Fairview Gala Committee. She lives in Egremont with her 2 daughters.



Leslie Alfin, Communications

Leslie Alfin is an artist and native of Columbia County and the Southern Berkshires who lives and works in North Egremont. She has previously taught art and design at Parsons School of Design in NYC, SUNY at Columbia Greene and has been a visiting artist at local schools Bard Simons Rock and Berkshire Community College. Her work has been shown locally, in the NYC metro area, and throughout the Northeast. Leslie is a board member and communications manager for The Friends of Prospect Lake.

**Sandra Josel**

Sandra Josel, born and raised in Brooklyn, NY, retired to Alford with her husband Mort in 2001. She's a graduate of Adelphi University with Masters degree in Social Welfare. She is an avid arts lover and volunteers at a variety of organizations in the area including 20 years at Tanglewood. Sandra has been a member of the LCC Alford/Egremont for 4 years and looks forward to continuing her work on behalf of Alford and Egremont.



We are also very excited that grants for the 2021 round have been awarded to 27 local organizations to be announced soon. The call for applications for the 2022 round will be announced in September.

In addition to our grant making charter, we look forward to working with our community partners to explore new ways in which arts and cultural activities can be expanded and offered to all in our immediate communities. The Alford-Egremont Cultural Council is funded by the Massachusetts Cultural Council's Local Cultural Council Grant Program (LCC).

MISSION STATEMENT

The Alford-Egremont Cultural Council gives priority and equal opportunity to projects that directly benefit the local communities of Alford and Egremont. Funds are divided between individuals, groups and organizations who propose enhanced opportunities for all our residents to participate in the performing, visual, and audio arts as well as in science and the humanities projects.

ECO-TIP

Products available in bulk are reappearing in our grocery stores. Ask at the service desk if you can take your own containers yet.

Police Department

We hope everyone is enjoying the early days of spring. The PD has received its new cruiser after an 8 month wait due to supply issues. The new cruiser is a hybrid and another step toward a greener community. The hybrid version of the Police Interceptor Utility is the first-ever pursuit-rated hybrid police SUV. This vehicle will allow for fuel savings and reduced CO2 emissions.



Police Activity for January 2022-March 2022:

Domestic Assault: 2

OUI liquor: 3

Assault & Battery with Dangerous Weapon: 2

Animal Cruelty: 2

OUI Drugs 3rd offense: 1

Unlicensed Operation MV: 3

Total Calls handled: 619

Conservation Commission:

If you have an interest in environmental conservation and would like to become involved in the Town's and the Commonwealth's efforts, especially as climate change will increasingly affect our local environment, please contact us to see whether Associate Membership in the Conservation Commission aligns with your interests.

While the principal work of the Commission is the enforcement of the Wetlands Protection Act, we are also charged by the Commonwealth with protecting and managing the

Town's open spaces through the Open Space and Recreation Plan (about which, see below), as well as the Forest Management Plans for certain of the Town-owned lands.

Although we generally see Building Permit and Septic System applications, we remind Egremonters that contacting the Commission before undertaking work on your property where there may be any possible wetlands nearby is a good and prudent idea to avoid any future problems. Most, but not all, local contractors are aware of the need to do so, but your own initiative is important. Doing so is a simple and cost-free process, requiring only that you fill out and submit a Project Review Form, available from the Town website. We are happy to consult with landowners who are considering projects on their property to determine whether there may be any Wetlands issues involved, and to work with you to ensure that you are able to complete your projects without encountering any conflicts with wetlands regulations.

Recently the Conservation Commission has had an opportunity to work with a landowner who neglected to contact us prior to doing a large amount of work that unfortunately was in significant violation of the Wetlands Protection Act. The owner was unaware of the violation until served with an Enforcement Order. Happily, the owner understood the issues involved and was anxious to correct the problem by designing a remediation program with the help of an area environmental design firm. We are happy to report that the new design not only brings the property into compliance with the WPA, but actually serves as a model for wildlife habitat, water protection, and aesthetic attractiveness. Although the owner, the Commission on behalf of the Commonwealth, and the designer are all pleased with the outcome of the matter, much stress and confusion could and should have been avoided if the owner had sought input from the Commission prior to initiating the work.

The Town has recently engaged a team of consultants to work with the Planning Board and the Conservation Commission to produce long overdue updates to the Master Plan and the Open Space and Recreation Plan as required by the Commonwealth. Together these two documents, when completed and approved, will provide

roadmaps for many aspects of the future of Egremont. In the light of the many challenges, both anticipated and as yet unknown that will face Massachusetts municipalities, careful and thoughtful planning with a wealth of community input will be essential. You will be hearing more about this process from the Planning Board and the Conservation Commission in the near future.

Housing Committee:

The Egremont Housing Committee promotes and encourages production of modestly priced housing in our town in a manner that does not adversely affect the character of the town.

The Committee has prepared and submitted to the selectboard a request for proposals to build modestly priced housing on the 6-acre portion of the town hall site that has been set aside for housing. The request does not specify the number or character or size of the housing units to be built, but rather invites prospective bidders – such as Habitat for Humanity and Construct Inc. – to propose what they think works best. The town is free to accept or reject or modify responses that are submitted. The process will be transparent, and there will be ample opportunity for townspeople to let their views be known. Grant fund requests have been submitted to the state for help in defraying the costs of the project. The state's initial reaction has been encouraging, but the grant process is slow and uncertain.

- In collaboration with the Berkshire Regional Housing Authority, the Housing Committee developed an Egremont Housing Needs Assessment which is posted on the Egremont Town Website.

- The Committee is drafting a primer about Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) soon to be posted on the Egremont Town Website.

Prospect Lake Access Committee:

Since January, a Lake Access Committee of five, appointed by the Select Board, has been looking into improving access for the public to the "Great Pond" known as Prospect Lake. The Committee's formation was prompted by the award of a grant from the MA Dept. of Public Health, to help the Town of Egremont assess the two current options used by residents and visitors to get into and out of Prospect Lake. These two options include the now-closed MA Fish & Game cartop access site and to the east, the area known as "the Gap" – where for decades people have

worn footpaths through the shrubbery to get to open water.

Per Massachusetts law, the public has the right to access Great Ponds, even if that access is across private property. However, as a practical matter, the increasing popularity of Prospect Lake has led to complaints from the public and lakefront homeowners, for the Town and/or the MA Fish & Game, to open an ADA accessible Lake access, to allow users of any age or ability, to enjoy this local gem.

Constraints to creating a fully-accessible, multi-purpose Lake access facility with designated parking spaces are formidable – beginning with the fact that the Town does not own any lakefront property!

And though Parcel owners of the two sites have attended Committee meetings via Zoom and in the case of MA Fish & Game - in person, during a recent site visit, more questions than answers have emerged.

The Lake Access Committee will continue their inquiry with the help of outside consultants from the legal, disability, and civil engineering disciplines, to create a plan for improved Lake access to be implemented in the future. Both the Egremont Police and Highway departments have been very helpful to the Committee, having suggested possible parking, traffic calming and other measures that can be implemented in the short term, to enhance safety.

The Committee expects to wrap up their study and report to the Select Board and residents before the June 30th grant deadline.

Meeting Schedule:

Subject to change. Please see postings of meetings on the Town's web page at www.egremont-ma.gov at Town Hall and the Post Offices for more detail. This is not official.

(Many meetings are taking place via Zoom. Please check the town's web page, www.egremont-ma.gov, for meeting postings.)

*Historical Commission - first Wednesday at 4pm
Assessors - Tuesdays & Thursdays 9am to 12noon &
Council on Aging - Meetings as posted. COA
Administrative Assistant is at Town Hall Thursday
9am to 12noon.*

*Board of Health - Monday-Thursday 7am to 12noon.
Meetings - Thursdays as posted 10am*

*Selectboard - Generally meetings every other Tuesday
10:00am. Office weekdays 7am to 3pm.*

Building Inspector - Tuesday 12:30pm to 3:30pm.

Other times and inspections by appointment

*Cemetery Commission - first Friday of every month at
8am.*

*Conservation Commission - Second and Fourth
Thursdays 5:30pm*

*Finance Committee - January through April. Other
times as needed.*

*Library (temporarily at Town Hall)- Monday, Tuesday
& Thursday 2-6pm & Saturday 9-12noon 413-528-1474*

*Planning Board - Please check web page for meeting
dates.*

*School Committee: Second & Fourth Thursdays 6pm
Mt. Everett High School Library*

Tax Collector: Monday - Friday 7:00am to 3:00pm

Town Clerk - Mon-Thurs 1pm to 3pm

or by appointment

*Transfer Station - Tuesday & Thursday 8am to
1pm, Saturday 8am to 1pm, Sunday 10am to 4pm*

Water Department - Office Clerk weekdays 7am-3pm

Meetings second Thursday 3:00pm at Town Hall

Zoning Board of Appeals - as needed

*To reach a board member or to leave a message please
call the Town Hall 528-0182.*

Business listings:

In an effort to promote local small businesses, the following businesses/services located in, or near, Egremont have agreed to be listed here. If we missed asking you and you wish to be included, please send your information to the Town Hall.

Support local businesses:

*Prospect Lake Park and Campground -
camping, swimming*

413-528-4158 camp@prospectlakepark.com

www.prospectlakepark.com

*Egremont residents receive a discount to access the
beach.*

The Inn at Sweet Water Farm - B&B

1 Prospect Lake Road

413-528-2882 www.innsweetwater.com

John Andrews' Restaurant - Restaurant
413-528-3469

Robin's Chair Caning - Chair caning and repairs.
Robin Walther
116 Egremont Plain Road
413-528-2537
robinschaircaning@gmail.com

Red Barn Antiques - Antique lighting & fine metal
polishing
413-528-3230

41 Main Antiques Gallery - Vintage and modern
furniture, antiques, collectibles, architectural and
decorative objects.
413-528-0112
www.41mainantiques.com

Blue Rider Stables - Therapeutic Horseback Riding
Lessons, summer programs
www.bluerider.org
413-528-5299

Green River Arabians & Pintos -
Horse Boarding, lessons, judging, farm programs
413-528-2367
arabpinto13@yahoo.com

Indian Line Farm - Community Supported
Agriculture (CSA) & Farmers Markets
413-528-8301
www.indianlinefarm.com

Ivory Pond Farm -
Llamas, Yarn and Woolens.
Dancing Crane Rug Hooking Studio. Hooked rugs,
lessons and supplies.
Tom & Liz Marino
413-528-9465
www.lizmarinorughooking.com
Llamama@wildblue.net

Turner Farms Maple Syrup - Phillips Road,
open 7am to 7pm 7 days a week.
Syrup and Honey
413-528-5710

Skip DelVaglio - Old Drone Apiary at Frog Cottage
(Local Honey)
1257 Sheffield - Egremont Road
413 528-2308

Frog Cottage Goodies: Phyllis & Cynthia
Pies, cakes, cookies, fudge, fruitcakes, cheesecakes
1257 Sheffield/Egremont Road
Great Barrington MA 01230
413-528-2308

Zorn Family Chiropractic-Chiropractor
44 Main Street, South Egremont
413-528-9654
healingspiritdc@yahoo.com

Zorn Core Fitness -
Personal, Couples & Group Training
Cardio Room - \$25 @ month Free 1 month cardio for
Egremont residents zornari@gmail.com
46 Main Street, South Egremont
413-528-1594 www.zorncorefitness.com
Yoga at Zorn Core Fitness, with Karin Beebe
Ashtanga Yoga & Gentle/Hatha Yoga
46 Main Street, South Egremont
413-528-0828
kbyoga@gmail.com

Amelia's Holistic Facial Rejuvenation
Combined with Reiki Level II and
Cranial Sacral Release
A licensed Aesthetician.
"Look and feel as though you just
enjoyed a two-week vacation...without the jet lag."
518.320.8314
AmeliasHolisticFacials@gmail.com

Old Egremont Country Store - groceries, beer, wine,
liquor, newspapers, lottery, & much more
413-528-4796

Blueberry Lane Home Design - Interior decorating
413-528-9633

Steve Agar - driving services
Ride to the airport, train, etc
413-854-7269

Posto Property Management
Property management and rental management.
Concierge home care for full-time and part-time
residents | Short-term (AirBNB) rental
management | Long-term rental management |
Home improvement consulting
Bryan Frank
www.postoproperty.com
hello@postoproperty.com
(413) 206-6386

Lord St. Pierre - General Contractor
Home renovations, maintenance
and monitoring
413-522-3671
llstpierre@yahoo.com

"Jack of All Trades"-Handyman Services
Jack Buckley
413-528-1982
413-446-1982

Bee Humble Softwash Services LLC
low pressure soft washing of roofs,
houses, awnings, decks, fences, solar panels, RV's,
exterior windows, etc.
beehumblesoftwash@gmail.com
860-453-4388

James Olmsted - Outdoor Services & Caretaking
Field Mowing
413-528-0102 413-717-2443

Bonnie Wells: general housekeeping, maintenance to
construction clean-up, ironing, polishing,
organizing, window washing with free screen
cleaning. 413-854-7417
bonbonz75@yahoo.com

Workingdesign

Architecture and Landscape Design
15 Sheffield Rd, So. Egremont
Robert Fakelmann, AIA and Alexis Wreden
318-436-9657 or 318-548-2238
rjf@latech.edu or awreden@gmail.com
www.workingdesign.info
No project too small!

Catamount Ski Area - Skiing & ropes course
413-528-1262
www.catamountski.com

Peter Goldberg, Realtor
Residential, Commercial, Land
Stone House Realty
35 Railroad Street, Great Barrington
413-281-6384m 413-528-4211o

Anita Schilling - Real Estate Listing & Sales
William Pitt Sotheby's
413-528-4192 or 413-626-1920
anitaschilling@gmail.com

Kenver Ltd - Winter Sports Equipment, Apparel &
Accessories
39 Main Street
413-528-2330 www.kenverltd.com

Cyber Knight - Matthew Wall
PC repairs - Networking - Internet
413-854-8660
Matthew.wall@yahoo.com

Dellea.biz Computer Services offers affordable on-site
Windows computer help and technical support as well as
remote PC tune-ups. Book appointments online at
<https://dellea.biz> or call (413) 528-1141

Berkshire Wildlife Solutions - Resolving conflicts with
nature. Eric F. Ives

Mass Problem Animal Control Agent
Consultation/Inspection, Capture,
removal and exclusionary work.
413-528-9813 413-250-5094

Brookside Quiltworks - Catherine Kane - fabric shop and
quilt gallery. 2 Sheffield Road, Egremont

413-528-0445
www.brooksidequiltworks.com

Maple Shade Enterprises: Quilts and Sewing, much more

Sue Delmolino Ives
413-644-0229
susandelmolino@yahoo.com

Stitched by JessaLu - Jessica Meyer
Handmade bags for your "Stuff"! www.stitchedbyjesselu.com

Berkshire Sewn - Mary Gifford
berkshiresewn@gmail.com
413-528-3040

Gregory Cherin Photography, South Egremont
1-917-991-0553
info@gregorycherin.com
www.gregorycherin.com

Berkshire Band Instrument Co. - Kevin S. Wheeler
185 Route 71, Egremont MA
01230
413-528-4955

Hillsdale Healthcare
Primary health care. Accepting most MA, NY and CT insurance. DOT certified.
518-325-2273

Berkshire Veterinary Acupuncture, LLC -
alternate veterinary therapies for your pet including acupuncture, spinal manipulation, food and herbal therapies. In-home or in-office by appointment. 413-528-1312
bvmobilevet@gmail.com
www.berkshireveterinaryacupuncture.com

Berkshire South Regional Community Center
15 Crissey Road, Great Barrington MA
413-528-2810 www.berkshiresouth.org
Non-profit community organization serving 17 towns throughout the Southern Berkshires. Providing a variety of educational, recreational and cultural programs for all ages - from early childhood

to senior citizens - and partners with several local organizations.

Gogel & Gogel - Law Firm
Business law & litigation
40 Main Street
413-528-2698 www.gogel-gogel.com

JJJ Hauling & Recycling
413-717-7622
Trash hauling services and roll-off containers services.

Jana Laiz: Local Author www.crowfliespress.com
www.janalaiz.com

Erika Ludwig Founder/Teacher
Berkshire Strings -
Instruction & Inspiration
erika@berkshiresstrings.com
www.berkshiresstrings.com
www.fiddlingfemmes.com
<https://berkshiresstrings.youcanbook.me/>
413-528-5739

Aston Magna Music Festival
Saturday evenings at the new Saint James Place in Great Barrington, mid-June to mid-July.
www.astonmagna.org
Susan Obel, Executive Director

Dwelling in the Past:
Lynn H. Wood, historic land records research

dwelling.LHW@gmail.com
Elisabeth L. Wood, historic and genealogical research

dwelling.ELW@gmail.com
www.dwellinginthepast.com
Offering the opportunity to find out the history of your home, and learn how its former occupants contributed in shaping the community we live in today. The local research team has extensive knowledge of the archival tools available, and combines that with years of experience in using those resources for bringing the past back into the light.
P.O. Box 558 South Egremont MA 01258
413-528-3919. Call for a complimentary consultation.

Memories of the Old Egremont Store:

Segment 5 by Stanley Gracyk

(Attached is a short bio of Stanley so you can get to know him a little.)

I remember the Old Egremont Store as being the hub for local information dissemination. Anyone coming into town, stopping at the store and talking with Joe Elliott would be able to find out what was happening locally such as the Fireman's Carnival, Snow Days, rummage sales, French Park picnics and gymkhanas, along with anyone that might be feeling poorly in town.

The store was known for supporting local businesses such as Sheffield Produce, Butler Wholesale, Pine Lane Farms, Crescent Creamery, Berkshire Novelties, and State Line Potato Chips. Joe preferred to purchase close by to promote the small business economies.

During the busiest time of the year, that was from Memorial Day to Labor Day, the store would transition more to the needs of vacationers at Prospect Lake and Camp Thunderbird. Most of these families were coming out of larger cities such as NYC, Hartford, Boston, Elmira, Schuylkill, and Albany, to get away from city life for the summer. Along with this came what was then known as the fresh air kids who were afforded the opportunity to see what country life was like. They were the meat of the business during those months which helped immeasurably during the winter months when both camps were closed. This often felt like how the farmers had to deal with by making hay while the sun shined, so as to get through until next spring.

Memories come back fleetingly especially about the winter months where I remember sentimental things such as Joe's old white hat with fishing lures on it, and wearing his apron every day. Days of the old 55 gallon oil drum and toppler spout where you cranked out a quart of oil at a time, free water, air, and always full service fill-ups. Piling up all the cardboard boxes in the snow bank by the box room door and burning them. Little did we know or care about pollution, air quality, and the ozone layer in the 60's. A favorite for the winter colds was "Baldwins Pine tar and honey" cough syrup, sure to

kill or cure a cold in no time at all.

Some more members of our fine community that I can recall are Faye Campbell (women's auxiliary and mint tea by the brook), Bruce and Jane Goewey (worked at Frank Wolfe's farm), Leigh Boice (historian), Benny Baldauf (lawn mower repair), Don and Grace Gleason (Fire Chief and Mount Everett Regional school cafeteria server), Mr. and Mrs. McPeak, Milo Peck (farming and heavy construction), and Ken Dawes (Boots and Saddles club and swimming lessons). As you can see even then we had a diverse community.

As time passed between 1969 and 1976, I really learned the importance of the stores convenience, and all the people, events, and stories, that came from and passed through the store. I miss the small town quaintness. Hopefully the Old Egremont Store will remain open for many decades to come where people can share their thoughts and ideas, pass on local history, and become part of the Berkshire Historical society. It would be a tragic loss to the community if the store was not supported and a focal point of the community for over 208 years ever had to close.

Many fond memories come with this disclaimer as I do not want to offend anyone, but want to remember the small town humor and atmosphere. I hope to be visiting again this summer!

"I DIDN'T EXACTLY WALK TWO MILES TO SCHOOL BAREFOOT IN THE SNOW, CARRYING MY LITTLE BROTHER PIGGY-BACK, BUT-----" ALL OF THE ELEMENTS OF SCHOOLING WERE REALLY DIFFERENT IN THE 1940'S, "WAY BACK THEN".

The Egremont Village Schools,-- An early history; 1940 to 1948. By Richard Burdsall

July 31, 1940, was my sixth birthday. In September 1940, I enrolled in the first grade at the South Egremont Village School. There was no pre-school or Kindergarten. The classroom was one room with eight grades, six rows of desks, six desks per row. Each grade had 4-5 students. Each spring we had a school picture taken, and I have a picture where there are thirty-five of us.

Eight grades, one room, thirty-five students, ages 6-13, boys and girls, eight curriculums of at least three subjects presented to each class each day, special needs children, and a few "advanced" students.

One teacher. One teacher, Mr. Nelson Salling.

There was also a North School just south of the village of North Egremont, and a West School out near Jug End, a door over from what is now Indian Line Farm. There were no busses, so during these years towns built and staffed schools near where the children lived.

All the South School children in the village walked to school, even the first graders. Those going to the South School from farms and rural homes walked in good weather and were taken to school by car or truck in bad weather. In deep winter they were driven back and forth, with an occasional spontaneous form of carpooling. Usually the children were expected to walk home, even in iffy weather.

After serious snowstorms, the school was closed until the roads were cleared enough for traffic. I was snowed in at Baldwin Hill Farm during the winter of 1946. I was twelve. That winter we had an accumulation of twelve feet of snow, with a constant level of at least sixteen inches all the time. For six days, our foreman, Willy Klahn, took 10 to 12 forty-quart milk cans in an open four runner bob sled

behind a team of draft horses down to the bottom of Bull's Hill (Baldwin Hill East & Route 71).

Our friendly neighbors, the Pecks on route 71, took our milk with theirs to the creamery, now S&A, in Great Barrington, and brought back the empty sterilized cans. Willy lived at the same corner, so after his breakfast, he brought the cans back up to our farm with the team and the bob sled, the horses again plunging through the snow.

On a Thursday of that winter stretch, we were told that the school was going to be open Friday, and Father said I was going I was going out with the milk. So I rode with the 10-12 milk cans in the bob sled, the horses snorting steam, and spraying snow in every direction. We went across the Bull Farm's field down Bull's Hill Road to route 71, where someone picked me up and took me down to the South School.

The country roads were being dug out by hand, and my father knew that they were going to get one of the four roads that led to our farm opened that day, Friday. In any event, at 3:00 our car, with chains on the rear wheels, was at the school to pick me up and bring me home through many single lane cuts that had been dug out by hand in the deepest drifts.

In decent weather, most children walked to school. Some older children rode back and forth to school on patched up single speed balloon tire bikes that were handed down through the family. When the West school was closed about 1940, those children walked 4.8 miles round trip to the South Village school. My older brother, Walt, and I walked, and later rode bikes, four miles round trip to the South Village school. The six Kirchners, in our farmhouse, walked 3.6 miles round trip to the North School. There was no bussing.

My father favored the South School mostly because of an unusual circumstance. The South School had a man teacher, and since my father had men as teachers for much of his schooling, he decided to go with Mr. Salling. Also, the South school had a larger facility than the others. The South school had a second smaller room behind the classroom, which was used for recess in bad weather. It also housed both the boy's and girl's bathrooms and a giant wood fired gravity hot air furnace. We also had basketball hoops on truly short court!

The North and West school buildings were actual one room schools with a bathroom of sorts that was a big step up from a privy. No pun intended. According to a

North School student, Cricket Anson, those two schools had a wood stove in the middle of the room, and well water at a sink.

Both the other schools had women teachers and they had a reputation for doing well with those students who were assigned to them. My research shows that a lady named Alma Wilcox taught at the North School. She was from the Wilcox family in Alford. Young women were often teachers in these country schools, but if they married and became pregnant, their contract called for them to resign.

Every student brought lunch in a lunch box or a bag which we ate in the school room at the beginning of the 12 to 12:45 recess. After we had eaten our lunch, we went outside and played Red Rover, Steal the Flag, softball, marbles, and mumbley peg in the schoolyard. Mumbley peg uses two open blades of a jack-knife. You placed the point of a blade on your arm, and then rolled the knife off your arm with your finger. You got points for how it stuck in the ground and how close the blade came to a target marble. No one ever got cut, even though nearly all boys carried a "Scout" jack-knife most of the time.

We gathered for recess in the back room in bad weather and hacked around as kids will do. Other recesses were 15 minutes at 10:30 and 15 minutes at 2 o'clock.

School let out at 2:30 for grades 1-3, and 3:00 for grades 4-8. The younger children, if they lived in the village or nearby, walked home at 2:30. Children in grades 1-3, who lived further away were picked up by parents or waited in the school yard or back room until 3:00 to walk home with their brothers, sisters, or just older kids going their way.

Yet we did see a bus twice a day every school day. It just was not for us. Every day a bus parked at the school yard entrance before school, and the high school students boarded for their five-mile trip to the Searles High School in Great Barrington. Every day it returned with the high school children just as our school let out at 3:00 o'clock. It also picked up high school children at the North Egremont Store parking area, but no other children, even if they lived on the bus route to Searles.

Most of the small towns used Searles High School on tuition for grades nine through twelve, but records show that Sheffield and New Marlborough

had high schools of their own at one time. I believe the Sheffield Library was the old high school for Sheffield.

The school year started on the first Monday after Labor Day. Every year the Great Barrington Fair opened about 10 days later, and the Thursday of Fair Week was Children's Day. Free passes were handed out at school and we students were given the day off to go to the fair,-- as was every other school child in Southern Berkshire County!

We rustics ogled all the sophisticated kids from bigger towns, but still felt comfortable with our country roots. We heard calliope music, horse racing in the background, and smelled the delicious scents of animals in the air. We looked over the exhibits of cows, heifers, calves, sheep, goats, pigs, chickens, ducks, and checked out the ribbons that they had won in the judging. We also compared them with the animals that we had on our farms.

We looked through pavilions with displays of pies, cakes, pickles, jams, jellies, and fresh vegetables,-- all vying for prizes in their categories.

In May of 1946, the spring when I was eleven, I was given a lamb as a 4 H project by the local 4H chapter. In September I sent the lamb, to the fair and it won first prize. First prize was \$25.00. That was a lot of money when comic books were a dime and ice cream cones were five cents!

But most of all, the Fair had an excellent carnival with dizzying rides and lots of screaming! More than once you would see a kid get off a ride and run for a trash barrel! We laughed, but we learned to not stand too close to the Tilt a Whirl!

Indeed, we loved everything about the Great Barrington Fair. I had my first hot dog in a roll at the fair. I had always eaten hot dogs rolled up in a slice of Wonder Bread, as they did not sell hot dog or hamburger rolls in the stores. Wonder bread, hot dog, onion, mustard, relish; messy,--hot dog on a real hot dog roll with all the fixings, --perfection, --and well worth the ten cents (\$1.50 of 2021 money) out of my pocket.

So, in September 1940 I walked into school with my older brother, Walter, for my first day of school in first grade. Walt was in fifth grade, and he rejoined his fourth-grade classmates, Pinky (Bob) Turner, Virginia Mielke (Race), Janet Patterson, and Paul Magruder. I met my three new classmates. They were Jimmy

TenBroeck, Johnny Schneider, Susan Williams (Trag), and I, Dickie Burdsall, was the fourth.

And that is how I remember some descriptive highlights about schooling from the 1940's. All rights reserved by Richard H. Burdsall March 16, 2022.



Geese on Smiley Pond - Photo credit Ari Zorn



Moose at Turner Farm - photo credit Carla Turner

Town of Egremont
P.O. Box 368
South Egremont MA 01258
413-528-0182

www.egremont-ma.gov
tegrement@egremont-ma.gov

*Printed, on recycled paper, by the Selectmen's Office
Staff as submitted by Town Departments.*

*"The Town of Egremont is an equal opportunity
provider and employer."*



RAIN BARREL SALE!

Sponsored by the Egremont Green Committee

PLACE YOUR ORDER BY Thursday, MAY 26, 5:00 PM

PICK UP AT TOWN HALL CAMPUS ON SATURDAY, JUNE 4, 9:00-11:00 AM

The Egremont Green Committee is partnering with The Great American Rain Barrel Co. to offer high-quality rain barrels at discounted prices for saving rainwater. Neither the Town of Egremont nor the Green Committee profits from this sale. The State of Massachusetts supports and encourages the use of rain barrels and has selected The Great American Rain Barrel Company as an approved vendor.

HOW TO ORDER

- Barrels can be purchased directly with a credit card from The Great American Barrel Company
- To purchase go to: www.greatamericanrainbarrel.com/community/ (select state MA and town Egremont). Order deadline: midnight Thursday, May 26, 5:00 p.m.
- Cost: Rain Barrel is \$70 or \$79/Rain Diverter is \$30 or \$35 (diverter is optional but recommended)
- Pick-up: Saturday June 4 from 9:00 to 11:00 AM at Egremont Town Hall Campus

RAIN BARREL DETAILS

- 100% repurposed rain barrels **(from a Massachusetts company)**
- 60-gallon capacity
- Most durable rain barrels on the market, with 3/16" wall thickness
- Will last for years when properly drained & stored for winter
- Top is screened to keep mosquitoes out
- Several rain barrels can be linked together
- Available colors: forest green, earth brown, terra cotta, Nantucket gray, and unpainted

More information: <https://www.greatamericanrainbarrel.com/>

DID YOU KNOW?

- On average, a 1" rainfall on a 1,000-square-foot roof will generate approx. 600 gallons of water
- Using rainwater for your garden, lawn, trees, shrubs, and washing cars will reduce stress on water systems, especially in times of drought
- Rain barrels help prevent runoff into rivers and streams
- Rainwater has no chemicals, chlorine, or fluoride, so it's great for plants and lawns

Master Sergeant Stanley J. Gracyk Jr. was born on August 22nd 1955, in Sharon, Connecticut. He is the son of Orell and Theda Choquette. He graduated from Mount Everett Regional High School, Sheffield, Massachusetts in June 1973, and entered the U.S. Air Force in February 1976. Upon graduation from Basic Training, he attended the Law Enforcement Specialist Course. Along with this was the Combat Skills/Terrorist Threat training at Lackland Air Force Base and Camp Bullis, Texas, graduating in June 1976.

His first permanent duty assignment was with the 10th Security Police Squadron, Royal Air Force, Alconbury, England, where he attained his 5 skill level, while working both gate duty and patrol. He was nominated for Law Enforcement Airman of the Year for USAFE.

In June 1980 he was reassigned to the 3345th Security Police Squadron, Chanute Air Force Base, Illinois, where he was promoted to the rank of Staff Sergeant. Assigned as a Desk Sergeant he won NCO of the Quarter from Oct-Dec 1980 and was selected to attend the Air Training Command NCO Leadership School, Traffic Management Accident Investigation Course, the Fire/Arson/Explosion Investigators Course, DWI Instructors and Breath/Alcohol Testing Operators Course. Furthermore he was selected by his Commander to assume the position of Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge of the Confinement and Correctional Custody Facility, which he operated simultaneously in a position normally reserved for more senior NCO's.

His next assignment in May 1984 was the 42nd Security Police Squadron, Loring Air Force Base, Maine, where he was assigned as an Assistant Law Enforcement Flight Chief.

In May 1985, he was reassigned to the 56th Security Police Squadron, MacDill Air Force Base, Florida, where he assumed the position of Law Enforcement Flight Chief, then the NCOIC of Corrections, and promoted to the rank of Technical Sergeant in December 1986.

In August 1987, he was reassigned to the 7022nd Security Police Flight, Pirinlik, Diyarbakir, Turkey, where he was assigned the position of Superintendent, Security Police Administration and NCOIC, Law Enforcement and Investigations.

In August 1988, he was reassigned to the 42nd Security Police Squadron, Loring Air Force Base, Maine, where he held the positions of Flight Sergeant, NCOIC, Law Enforcement Training and Readiness Augmentees, and NCOIC, Reports and Analysis. In November, 1992, he was promoted to the rank of Master Sergeant, and was selected as Senior NCO of the Quarter Apr-Jun 1993. During this time he was awarded his Associates Degree in Criminal Justice through the Community College of the Air Force. He was stationed at Loring AFB, until the closure of the base in 1994.

In August 1994, he was reassigned to the 27th Security Police Squadron, Cannon Air Force Base, New Mexico, where he served as Flight Sergeant While deployed from Cannon AFB, to Guantanamo Bay Cuba, Jan-Apr 1995, he served as NCOIC, Operations, for the Army Provost Marshal. In June 1996, he was deployed to Palanquero Air Base, Colombia, where he was part of a force sent to train Colombian Police Forces in Law Enforcement duties. Followed by a 3 month deployment to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, where he was assigned under the Army Provost Marshal to implement law enforcement procedures in the Haitian/Jamaican/Cuban refugee camps.

In January 1998, he was reassigned to the 51st Security Forces Squadron, Osan Air Base, Republic of South Korea, where he served as Flight Sergeant and NCOIC, Operations. During his time there he was

deployed to reopen Taegu Air Base, due to world tensions, where he held the position of NCOIC, Operations, Law Enforcement, and Traffic Accident Investigator.

In January 1999, he was reassigned to the 4th Security Forces Squadron, Seymour Johnson Air Force, North Carolina, where he served as Flight Sergeant, NCOIC, Pass and Registration, NCOIC, Installation Security, First Sergeant, NCOIC, Vehicle Delivery Operations and Vehicle Control Officer.

On April 1st, 2003, he retired with the rank of Master Sergeant, with 27 years, 1 month, and 12 days of active duty service in the Air Force. His decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal with five oak leaf clusters, Air Force Achievement Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with four oak leaf clusters, Coast Guard Meritorious Unit Award, Coast Guard Special Operations Service Award, Nuclear Deterrence Operations Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster and N device, and the Army Basic Non-Commissioned Officers Course and Combat Arms ribbon.

He is married to the former Valerie Tooley, whom he married on December 23rd, 1989. They have six children, Mark Tooley, Trae Gracyk, Amber Varney, Joshua Tooley, Kayla Willis, and Michael Gracyk. They also have seven grandchildren, Jayda, Paige, Keira, Kayden, Evan, Daniil, and Cru.


In January 2007, he went back to college at Mount Olive College where he was awarded the 2009 Edwin Sutherland Award for Law Enforcement, Criminal Justice, and Sociology. He was awarded his Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice and Sociology in May 2010.

In 2012, he started volunteering as a driver for the Disabled American Veterans Chapter 45, transporting disabled veterans to the Fayetteville Veteran's Hospital in Fayetteville, North Carolina, until 2019 when his health would no longer allow him to drive. At present he volunteers as a phone call and client receptionist at the chapter. In 2021, he was determined to be 100% permanent and totally disabled due to post traumatic stress disorder and Parkinson's disease.

TOWN OF EGREMONT – April 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				Tentative- Subject to Change- Check With Town Hall Town Hall Monday-Friday 7-3pm Phone: 413-528-0182 Fax: 413-528-5465 Website: www.egremont-ma.gov Email: tegrement@egremont-ma.gov		
Transfer Station: Tues, Thurs, Sat 8-1; Sun 10-4 Library: Mon, Tues, Thurs 2-6; Sat 9-12						
3	4 Board of Health 7-12:30 Town Clerk 1-3	5 Assessors 9-12 Bd of Health 7-12:30 Town Clerk 1-3 Bldg Inspector 12:30-3:30	6 Board of Health 7-12:30 Town Clerk 1-3	7 Assessors 9-12 Board of Health 7-12:30 Town Clerk 1-3	1 Board of Health 7-12:30 Town Clerk 1-3	2 <i>Ramadan begins at sundown</i>
10 <i>Palm Sunday</i>	11 Board of Health 7-12:30 Town Clerk 1-3	12 Select Board 10am Assessors 9-12 Bd of Health 7-12:30 Town Clerk 1-3 Bldg Inspector 12:30-3:30 Select Board 1:30pm	13 Board of Health 7-12:30 Town Clerk 1-3	14 Assessors 9-12 Board of Health 7-12:30 Town Clerk 1-3 Conservation Comm 5:30	15 Town Clerk 1-3 Board of Health 7-12:30 <i>Passover begins at sundown</i>	16
17 <i>Easter</i>	18 Patriots' Day Town Hall closed	19 Assessors 9-12 Bd of Health 7-12:30 Town Clerk 1-3 Bldg Inspector 12:30-3:30	20 Board of Health 7-12:30 Town Clerk 1-3	21 Assessors 9-12 Board of Health 7-12:30 Town Clerk 1-3	22 Board of Health 7-12:30 Town Clerk 1-3 Earth Day	23
24	25 Board of Health 7-12:30 Town Clerk 1-3	26 Select Board 10am Assessors 9-12 Bd of Health 7-12:30 Town Clerk 1-3 Bldg Inspector 12:30-3:30 Select Board 1:30pm	27 Board of Health 7-12:30 Town Clerk 1-3	28 Assessors 9-12 Bd of Health 7-12:30 Town Clerk 1-3	29 Board of Health 7-12:30 Town Clerk 1-3	30 

TOWN OF EGREMONT – May 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Tentative- Subject to Change- Check With Town Hall Town Hall Monday-Friday 7am-3pm By Appointment Only Phone: 413-528-0182 Fax: 413-528-5465 Website: www.egremont-ma.gov Email: egremont@egremont-ma.gov</p>						
1	2 Board of Health 7-12:30 Town Clerk 1-3	3 Assessors 9-12 Bd of Health 7-12:30 Town Clerk 1-3 Bldg Inspector 12:30-3:30 Annual Town Meeting	4 Board of Health 7-12:30 Town Clerk 1-3	5 Assessors 9-12 Board of Health 7-12:30 Town Clerk 1-3	 6 Board of Health 7-12:30 Town Clerk 1-3	7
8 <i>Mother's Day</i>	9 Board of Health 7-12:30 Town Clerk 1-3	10 Assessors 9-12 Bd of Health 7-12:30 Town Clerk 1-3 Bldg Inspector 12:30-3:30 Town Elections	11 Board of Health 7-12:30 Town Clerk 1-3	12 Assessors 9-12 Board of Health 7-12:30 Town Clerk 1-3	13 Board of Health 7-12:30 Town Clerk 1-3	14
15	16 Board of Health 7-12:30 Town Clerk 1-3	17 Select Board 10am Assessors 9-12 Bd of Health 7-12:30 Town Clerk 1-3 Bldg Inspector 12:30-3:30	18 Board of Health 7-12:30 Town Clerk 1-3	19 Assessors 9-12 Board of Health 7-12:30 Town Clerk 1-3	20 Board of Health 7-12:30 Town Clerk 1-3	21
22	23 Board of Health 7-12:30 Town Clerk 1-3	24 Assessors 9-12 Bd of Health 7-12:30 Town Clerk 1-3 Bldg Inspector 12:30-3:30	25 Board of Health 7-12:30 Town Clerk 1-3	26 Assessors 9-12 Board of Health 7-12:30 Town Clerk 1-3	27 Board of Health 7-12:30 Town Clerk 1-3	28
29	30 Memorial Day Town Hall Closed	31 Select Board 10am Assessors 9-12 Bd of Health 7-12:30 Town Clerk 1-3 Bldg Inspector 12:30-3:30			Transfer Station: Tues, Thurs, Sat 8-1; Sun 10-4 Library: Mon, Tues, Thurs 2-6; Sat 9-12	